Ontario

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

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Ontario
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Fonds du patrimoine du Nord de l'Ontario

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Ontario Invests In Timmins Nordic Centre - #950091

Provincial Investment Will Boost Tourism And Promote Cross Country Skiing

SUDBURY – The McGuinty government is strengthening tourism and promoting wellness in the Timmins area by investing in the construction of a new chalet facility, Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci announced today.

"Our government is committed to strengthening tourism, one of the North's economic sectors brimming with potential," said Bartolucci. "This new centre will help attract provincial and national cross country competitions as well as generate significant economic benefits for the area."

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) is providing $250,000 to the Porcupine Ski Runners to build a new 5,500-square-foot chalet. The project includes construction of change rooms, washrooms, kitchen and an administrative area. The new chalet will help the organization, one of Ontario's largest cross country ski clubs with its own world class trail system, host championship competitions and train high level athletes.

"Timmins is well suited to accommodate facilities for training athletes who could ideally become an integral part of a strong national team at the 2010 Winter Olympics in British Columbia," said Bartolucci, who also chairs the NOHFC. "I am equally pleased that the Porcupine Ski Runners will work in partnership with other organizations, like the local cycling club, to use the new facilities and promote activities that foster healthy lifestyles on a year round basis."

Other McGuinty government initiatives in support of northerners include:

• Investing nearly $8.7 million to date, from the NOHFC, to provide internships and work placements to help some 475 young northerners launch their careers in the North
• Investing $1 million to build the Timmins Regional Emergency Services Communication and Monitoring Centre
• Refocusing the NOHFC's Emerging Technology Program to help bring broadband Internet and cellular service to most of the North within three years

These initiatives are part of the government's Northern Prosperity Plan for building stronger northern

communities. The Northern Prosperity Plan has four pillars: Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All.

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